

Youth Curling Report

The past year brought many successes to our Youth Curling Program. I am happy to report that we had 10 very dedicated coaches across all age groups all of whom were at minimum Club Coach - Youth Certified through the Ontario Curling Council. These coaches supported over 50 youth curlers, including approximately a dozen Little Rocks Curlers who were at the start of a rebuilding of this program after a two-year pandemic hiatus.

Looking forward, this season looks to be equally as successful, having registrations around 40 (at the time of writing) which is slightly ahead of our position at this time last year. And with the departure of a few coaches from last season, we are once again reaching out to any interested members who have time to assist on Sunday to help our coaches and convenors with the operation of our Junior and Little Rocks Programs. All volunteers are welcome and no experience is necessary (trained coaches will be there to support all volunteers).

Over the past year we were happy to see teams represent the BCC in the following CurlON events: U18 Women's Provincial Qualifiers, U21 Women's Provincial Qualifiers, Elementary School Provincial Championship, and the Provincial Finals for the Hit, Draw, Tap Competition, which saw BCC members take home a First Place (Caitlyn Stewart 11-13 years), a Second Place (Machlen Stewart 9-10 years), and a Third place (Nia Sherwood 11-13 years). Our program produced many other individual and team accomplishments including a National Gold Medal (Matt Abrams - Humber College Men's Team), Provincial Gold Medal (Sierra Hardwick - Humber College Mixed Doubles Team), U21 Provincial Finalists (Team Johnston), GBSSA Winner (Taylor Hardwick), and many more strong results in a variety of Junior Curling Tour, Junior Slam Series events, and several other fun events around the Region. Last year also saw the return of the Spirit Cup which was won by our own U18 Women's Team (Team Padoin-Lee). All together our program consisted of 16 members who played at a Provincial Championship this season! Congratulations go out to all who have represented the BCC!

For this upcoming season, we are have been working on several marketing/advertising projects to help promote our program. Some of these projects include the addition of a parade float to be included in the 2023 Barrie Santa Claus Parade, youth programming to be offered through the city's Parks and Recreation Guide, and having additional marketing materials (which have already approved and distributed) to schools in our community through the various county school boards.

With regards to upcoming events, we are continuing with the 2024 Spirit Cup, and we have recently successfully hosted the 2023 Stu Sells Junior Tankard and the 2023 Stu Sells U18 Tankard. These two events featured over 40 youth teams representing clubs from across Ontario and Quebec, and from several States across the USA. We were also fortunate to cheer on 3 teams over both events, representing the Barrie Curling Club. They all played extremely well and were great hosts to our visiting teams. We look forward to seeing more great results from each of them throughout this season.

I would also like to take a moment to personally thank the staff and the many members who came out and volunteered their time towards these events to act as timers, greeters, and organizers. Without your support, these events would not happen. We greatly appreciate all of our adult membership for showing their support to our junior curlers. It is my hope that with the continued support from our amazing BCC family, these young curlers and these great events we will be a successful part in promoting "Youth Curling @ the BCC" across our community. This support will help us stand out as a leader in quality training and development, offering fun programming that is inclusive to all ages and abilities, thus ensuring that the future of the Barrie Curling Club will live strong for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our convenors, coaches, and volunteers for their support week in and week out over the past year, and especially to those who have come back this season to see our program grow through the upcoming season.

In all, we had a successful past year with many wonderful accomplishments, and we are shaping up to another great year in 2023-2024!

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hardwick